

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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O R 131155Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6096

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 6698

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IOP/FW

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O.11652: N/A

SUBJECT: KHMER SITUATIONER - MAY 13, 1974

1. THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN COMMUNIST GROUND AND MORTAR ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SOUTHEAST OF PREY VENG ON SUNDAY. FANK UNITS HELD FIRM AND GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT. THREE COMMUNIST 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HIT THE CITY WOUNDING THREE PERSONS. A SIMILAR PATTERN WAS REPORTED AT KOMPONG THOM. FANK UNITS, FIRING FROM WELL-PREPARED POSITIONS SOUTH OF THE CITY, REPLUSED A HEAVY COMMUNIST ATTACK EARLY SUNDAY MORNING. GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT. FOUR COMMUNIST 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HIT THE CITY WOUNDING THREE PERSONS.

2. ON THE SOUTHERN HALF OF ROUTE 4, FANK UNITS COMPLETED A PLANNED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OUTPOST AT STOEUNG CHHAY IN ORDER

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TO REINFORCE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT KOMPONG SEILA 80 KM

SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU. NORTH OF STOEUNG CHHAY, GOVERNMENT FORCES REPULSED A COMMUNIST ATTACK ON THE BRIDGE OVER ROUTE 4 AT KAAUNG KILLING FOUR COMMUNIST SOLDIERS.

3. GOVERNMENT FORCES AT TAKEO MOVED THE SOUTHERN DEFENSE PERIMETER OUT ANOTHER FIFTEEN HUNDRED METERS ON SUNDAY TO A LINE FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE AIRFIELD. THIS EXPANSION OF THE PERIMETER PROVIDED INCREASED SECURITY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE AIRFIELD. AT KAMPOT, THE FANK 20 TH BRIGADE REPULSED ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS ALONG THE NORTHERN DEFENSE PERIMETER. SCATTERED COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS DURING THE DAY RESULTED IN LIGHT GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES.

4. IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA, THE FANK PARA BRIGADE KILLED FOUR COMMUNIST SOLDIERS DURING A HEAVY COMMUNIST ATTACK EARLY SUNDAY MORNING ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG. COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS WERE REPORTED ON THREE PARA BRIGADE POSITIONS DURING THE DAY. GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT. NO COMMUNIST OR FANK INITIATIVES WERE REPORTED IN THE BASSAC-ROUTE 30 CORRIDOR SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. NORTH OF THE CITY, SEVENTH DIVISION AND FIFTH BRIGADE ELEMENTS REPORTED ONLY LIMITED PROGRESS IN FIGHTING ALONG ROUTE 5. FANK ELEMENTS REPULSED COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON THE NORTHERN PERIMETER OF THE LOVEK ENCLAVE EARLY ON SUNDAY MORNING. GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT.

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